

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 241813

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241813

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 10274 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW NEW
DELHI PEKING TEHRAN OCT 31, 1974

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10274

EXDIS

SECTO 272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH BANGLADESH
LEADERS

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY MET WITH BD FOREIGN MINISTER
HOSSAIN AND PRIME MINISTER MUJIB FOR TOTAL OF 3-1/2 HOURS
TALKS AFTERNOON OCTOBER 30. SECRETARY STRESSED OUR
SATISFACTION IN GOOD RELATIONS AND PLEDGED CONTINUED US
SUPPORT FOR BD DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. REAFFIRMED HIGH US
REGARD FOR SIMLA PROCESS AND COMMENDED MUJIB FOR "GENE-
ROSITY OF SPIRIT" IN THIS AREA. MUJIB SAID HE HAD NO
ENMITY TOWARD PAKISTAN AND WANTED GOOD RELATIONSHIP.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 241813

TALKS INCLUDED EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN

AID FIELD AND SPECIAL FOCUS ON STEPS POSSIBLE TO
IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOKS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MUJIB WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL
REVIEW OF OUR RELATIONS AND PROBLEMS FACING BANGLADESH.
SECRETARY RECALLED WITH STRONG SATISFACTION HIS AND
PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MUJIB IN NEW YORK AND
WASHINGTON AND AFFIRMED OUR APPRECIATION OF WARMTH IN
US-BD RELATIONSHIP. ASSURED BOTH MUJIB AND HOSSAIN OF
SYMPATHY AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR MANY AGONIES THAT BANGLADESH
HAD SUFFERED IN RECENT HISTORY AND SAID US PREPARED TO
CONTINUE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, WITHIN ITS CAPABI-
LITIES, TO ASSIST BDG BUILD STRONG AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY.

3. SECRETARY EXPRESSED SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR VERY
WARM RECEPTION HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD RECEIVED IN
BANGLADESH; MUJIB RESPONDED BY DESCRIBING THIS AS REFLEC-
TIVE OF "LOVE AND AFFECTION" OF BENGALIS FOR US. SECRETARY
NOTED THAT HE HAD PROFITED FROM DETAILED REVIEW OF ELEMENTS
IN OUR RELATIONSHIP IN EARLIER TALKS WITH KAMAL HOSSAIN AND
SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OVERVIEW OF BANGLADESH PROBLEMS AS
MUJIB SAW THEM.

4. MUJIB'S COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN WERE MORE IN SORROW THAN
IN ANGER, FOCUSING ON BIHARI AND ASSET ISSUES AND EXPRESSING
HIS REGRET THAT GOP LEADERSHIP SEEMED SO UNWILLING, AS HE
SAW IT, TO TAKE STEPS BEYOND RECOGNITION TO ESTABLISH
BETTER TIES. MUJIB SAID HE HAD NO ANGER OR HATRED IN HIS
HEART AND SAID HE AND HIS PEOPLE WANTED A SETTLEMENT WITH
PAKISTAN.

5. HIGHLIGHTING SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CURRENTLY
FACING BANGLADESH BY DESCRIBING THE 5,303 GRUEL KITCHENS
HIS GOVERNMENT HAD OPENED, MUJIB SAID BANGLADESH COULD
HAVE STRONG ECONOMY WITHIN FIVE YEARS IF IT COULD
EFFECTIVELY MOBILIZE ITS OWN RESERVES AND IF "MASSIVE"
HELP COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM DEVELOPED WORLD. INCLUDED
IN THIS MUST BE LARGE FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR AT LEAST ONE
TO TWO YEARS. MUJIB SAID THAT OF COURSE ANY SUCH PROGRESS
IN ECONOMIC TERMS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE ENERGETIC POPULATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 241813

PLANNING EFFORT.

6. MUJIB EXPRESSED STRONG SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR PL 480
ASSISTANCE, NOTING ESPECIALLY FACT OF ADDITIONAL 100,000
TONS OF FOOD OF WHICH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAD SPOKEN
WHEN HE WAS IN US.

7. SECRETARY ASSURED MUJIB THAT BANGLADESH WOULD CONTINUE

TO HAVE HIGH PRIORITY AS US PROCEEDED TO ALLOCATE WHAT REGRETTABLY WAS NOW LIMITED AMOUNT FOOD AVAILABLE TO US COMPARED TO EARLIER YEARS. ASSURED MUJIB THAT WE WOULD DO MORE IN SECOND HALF FY 75 BUT WE COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC NOW.

8. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH MUJIB AND FOREIGN MINISTER, SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD BE PREPARED CONSIDER CAREFULLY WITH BDG AND OTHERS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE IN FLOOD CONTROL, MORE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES, AND OTHER PROJECTS TO SPUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY. SECRETARY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FLOOD CONTROL EFFORTS IN PARTICULAR COULD WELL BE FOCUS OF MULTILATERAL EFFORTS IN CONSORTIUM CONTEXT AND IN BDG-INDIAN COOPERATION. HOSSAIN AGREED AND SAID HE HOPED US COULD PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THIS RESPECT.

9. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF OTHER INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SAID HE WOULD BE SPELLING OUT A BROAD APPROACH IN THIS AREA IN SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALSO STRESSED ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF GREATER SELF-HELP EFFORTS ON PART OF BANGLADESH.

10. IN RESPONDING TO COMMENTS BY BOTH MUJIB AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON OUTLOOK FOR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, SECRETARY REAFFIRMED STRONG AND SYMPATHETIC USG SUPPORT FOR SIMLA PROCESS AND COMMENDED MUJIB FOR GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT IN HIS APPROACH TO PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN. ASSURED BOTH MUJIB AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT US SUPPORT FOR SIMLA WOULD REMAIN UNDIMINISHED AND THAT HE WOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF ISLAMABAD VISIT TO EMPHASIZE THAT SUPPORT AND WOULD CONVEY VIEWS THAT MUJIB AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM ON BIHARI AND ASSETS PROBLEMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 241813

QQM EARLIER AND SEPARATE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER INCLUDED DETAILED EXPOSITION OF EVOLVING BDG FOREIGN POLICY, INCLUDING WHAT HE TERMED CONSCIOUS AND DEDICATED PURSUIT OF NONALIGNMENT APPROACH. SECRETARY INDICATED US SUPPORT FOR THIS CONCEPT AS ONLY APPROPRIATE ONE FOR A COUNTRY IN POSITION OF BANGLADESH. SECRETARY REMINDED FOREIGN MINISTER, HOWEVER, OF HIS CONCERN OVER EVOLVING PATTERN OF ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR ON PART OF MANY NONALIGNED THAT AMOUNTED TO A NEW AND MORE RIGID ALIGNMENT DIRECTED AGAINST THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. OBSERVED THAT IN LONG RUN, THIS COULD ONLY WORK TO SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE OF ALL COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY LDC'S. SAID HE HAD NO RESERVATION ABOUT BDG ROLE IN THIS RESPECT BUT HOPED THAT BDG WOULD KEEP THIS IN MIND AND USE ITS INFLUENCE AS APPROPRIATE TO COUNTER THIS TREND.

12. FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED VARIETY OF PROBLEMS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION CURRENT US FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN BANGLADESH, AND SECRETARY ASSURED FM THAT THESE WOULD GET EARLY AND EFFECTIVE CONSIDERATION BY USG TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE COULD WORK THESE OUT. THESE INCLUDED REITERATION OF REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PL 480 FOODGRAINS, REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF EARLIER NEGATIVE DECISION ON 14,000 TONS EDIBLE OIL FROM FY 74 ALLOCATIONS, REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF \$4 MILLION OF REPROGRAMMED REHAB FUNDS TO FLOOD RELIEF AND CONCERN OVER CUTOFF DATE (HOSSAIN ALLEGED DECEMBER 31) AFFECTING UNDISBURSED REHABILITATION FUNDS. SECRETARY PROMISED TO TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION TO PREVENT ANY LOSS OF FUNDS DUE TO CUT-OFF. HOSSAIN STRESSED NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DL PROGRAM TO PERMIT COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO ASSIST BANGLADESH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY FERTILIZER, COTTON, TALLOW AND CEMENT. HOSSAIN SAID THAT UNEXPECTED FERTILIZER SHORTAGE DUE TO EXPLOSION AT BD FERTILIZER FACTORY HAD CREATED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DL UP TO ANOTHER \$50 MILLION FOR FY 75. SECRETARY GAVE NO ASSURANCE ON LATTER POINT, NOTING GENERALLY UNSYMPATHETIC CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ON AID MATTERS.

13. HOSSAIN ALSO REVIEWED STEPS THAT HE SAID BDG HAD RECENTLY TAKEN TO FOSTER GENERAL INVESTMENT CLIMATE,
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PAGE 05 STATE 241813

INCLUDING RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW INVESTMENT POLICY AND READINESS TO SIGN OPIC AGREEMENT WITH US, AND SAID CLEARANCES NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN BDG ON PAYMENTS TO US INSURANCE COMPANIES WHOSE HOLDINGS HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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